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ABSTRACT

This issue is devoted to driving and traffic safety. Based on information found in drivers' manuals from the various Australian states, instructions are given vis-a-vis pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists, driving regulations, seat belts, alcohol and drugs, lines and signs, and registration and licensing. Sample questions and suggested explanations for certain expressions used are included. The concluding section is devoted to suggestions for teaching this material to adult learners of English as a second language. (JB)

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Vol. 4 No. 4 February 1980

TEFL TESL NEWSLETTER

FOR THE INTERCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND IDEAS ON THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND OR FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN AUSTRALIA

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This number of the *TEFL/TESL Newsletter* presents a simplified English version of most or all of the material to be found in road safety handbooks in the various Australian States.

The subject of road safety, it is expected, will interest people learning English in Australia, since all of them are road users in one sense or another. There may be an added incentive, of course, for those secondary school and adult learners hoping to become licensed drivers in the near future.

This text, therefore, should furnish a useful basis for lessons of many kinds in the ESL classroom.

In one section explanations are offered for a number of expressions that may cause difficulty. Another section (not intended to be comprehensive) contains a few hints for the teacher on ways in which concepts of road safety might best be communicated to the learner.

The material contained in this issue is based on the work of Ms Rosemary Walters, who teaches ESL in Canberra. The Office of Road Safety of the Commonwealth Department of Transport has checked the technical content relating to road rules and road safety practices. We express our gratitude to Ms Walters and to that Office, for their assistance in making this material available.

USING THE ROADS SAFELY

* Rosemary Walters

Introduction

This material is not suitable for beginners. It is suggested that students should be considerably beyond the beginner stage before being introduced to these concepts on using the roads safely. Teachers may find a variety of uses for these considerably simplified notes on road rules for drivers and pedestrians.

It is expected that the material will be of use with secondary school students as well as adults.

It will be found helpful to use toy cars and large maps or sand trays for demonstration purposes, while outside of the classroom students might be shown the various pieces of equipment and parts of a car and have the opportunity to become familiar with various signs and street markings.

The technical content relating to road rules and road safety practices was checked prior to publication by the Office of Road Safety of the Commonwealth Department of Transport. Teachers are advised to procure a copy of their State's road safety handbook. Some of the illustrations from the appropriate local handbook, if copied on the chalkboard, will help considerably to clarify some of the more difficult aspects of road safety.

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* Ms Walters teaches ESL in Canberra.

PART I

SECTION A

PEDESTRIANS (People who walk)

1. GENERAL RULES: Remember! See and be seen. You should:

   - walk on the footpath. Where there is no footpath walk on the side of the road facing the oncoming(1) traffic(2);

   - at night wear or carry something white or light coloured.

2. CROSSING THE STREET: Remember,

   - large numbers of elderly pedestrians are killed each year in Australia. Frequently pedestrians killed are drunk, and often wearing a dark coat that makes them hard to see at night;

   - stop at the kerb (edge of the footpath) and look both ways before you cross;

   - walk across the road - DON'T run;

   - look around you and listen as you cross;

   - at night, cross near street lights;

   - take extra care if you have to cross from between parked cars or from behind a bus. When you get off a bus wait until it has moved off before you cross.

3. PEDESTRIANS AT CROSSINGS AND INTERSECTIONS(3):

   - at traffic lights, wait for the WALK sign. At intersections where there are no pedestrian traffic

lights, wait until the green light is in your favour, i.e. wait until the traffic is travelling in the same direction as the direction in which you want to walk;

- pedestrian crossings are marked by stripes on the roadway and the sign CROSSING. Vehicles must give way to(4) a pedestrian when the pedestrian is on one of these crossings;

- when crossing, as a matter of courtesy and to avoid creating dangerous situations, wait for a break in the traffic, then put one foot forward to show drivers you want to cross. Give drivers time to stop;

- in some States, children's crossings are marked by lines on the roadway, and are in use when red flags are shown at the edge of the footpath.

4. CHILDREN (particularly those under 5 years of age):
Parents should:

- find places for children to play that are well away from traffic;

- keep children away from parked cars in the driveway, the garage or on the roadway. It is hard for the driver to see out of a reversing(5) vehicle;

- hold a child's hand whenever he crosses a road with you. Do not allow children to cross roads on their own;

- not allow children to play on the footpath;

- not wait across the road for a child because he may rush across the road in front of traffic; go across the road to fetch the child.

5. MOTORISTS AND PEDESTRIANS: You should:

- slow down(6) as you get close to a pedestrian crossing. Pedestrians have right of way;
- never overtake(7) a car stopped at a crossing;
- look out for(8) pedestrians coming out from between parked cars or behind buses;
- be patient with elderly, crippled or blind pedestrians;
- drive slowly and watch for children on roads that are near schools, at the times when children are arriving at school, or leaving school.

SECTION B

CYCLISTS AND MOTORCYCLISTS

1. CYCLISTS: Only vehicles with engines must be registered(9). Cyclists(10) must observe the rules of the road.(11) Visibility of both bicycles and their riders is vital.

Your bicycle should have:

- a bell that works properly;
- brakes that work properly;
- a small brightly coloured flag flying to increase motorists' chances of seeing you;

and at night,

- a white front light (never a red one);
- a red rear light (no other colour is permitted);
- a red rear reflector;
- pedal reflectors;
- reflectors attached to the wheels and visible from the side.

You must also:

- ride on a seat attached to the bicycle;
- keep both hands on the handlebars(12), except to make hand signals;
- keep both feet on the pedals;
- use a cycle path when provided;
- use the left-hand side(13) of the road;

and you should wear a suitable safety helmet.

You must not:

- carry more people than the bike is made for;
- allow your bicycle to be towed(14) by another vehicle;
- ride more than two abreast(15). (If there are three bicycle riders together, one must ride behind the other two.)

2. MOTORCYCLISTS: All motorcyclists should obey the traffic rules closely. In an accident a motorcyclist has little protection.

If you wish to buy or ride a motorcycle, for reasons of both safety and economy you should give serious consideration to the advantages of lightweight(16) machines.

(i) Safety helmets

- Motorcycle riders and passengers must wear a helmet. This is *compulsory*(17). If your helmet has E33 or E43 on it, it is an approved(18) type. The Motor Registry will tell you about other approved helmets.

(ii) Visibility

- Use your headlight during the day as well as at night so that motorists will see you more easily. Always wear light, bright clothing. These things are very important, as many accidents involve car drivers colliding with a motorcyclist whom they did not see.

(iii) Protective clothing

- You should also wear thick, strong clothes, such as boots, leather jacket, long trousers and gloves. This is your only protection if you fall off. DO NOT ride in thongs and shorts.

(iv) Pillion passengers

- You cannot carry pillion(19) passengers until you have held a licence for 12 months. The pillion passenger must sit astride(20) the cycle (i.e. one leg on each side) and face the front. He must sit on an approved seat and have footrests for his feet.

(v) Vehicle equipment Your motorcycle must have:

- safe tyres;
- good brakes;
- an effective headlight;
- a red tail light and a red reflector on the back of the bike and a light which shines on the rear number plate;
- footrests for the rider and the pillion passenger;
- a muffler (silencer);
- a good horn.

(vi) Training

Lack of experience is an important factor in motorcycle accidents. It is important that all motorcyclists are well trained, particularly in using both front and rear brakes in emergency stops.

SECTION C

MOTORISTS

1. DRIVER SIGNALS: If you want to stop or turn give your signals early to let other drivers know. They are not mind readers! All signals should be given well before you want to stop or turn.

To turn right, to pull out from the kerb, to overtake, or to change into a right-hand lane, you must signal your intention by a right turn flashing indicator (a light signal) if fitted to the vehicle, otherwise a hand signal.

When you want to turn right, you should:

- signal your intention;
- check in your rear vision mirrors;
- move to the right-hand lane or near the centre(22) line;
- give way to all traffic on your right.

To turn left, to pull out from a right-hand kerb or to change into the left-hand lane:

- signal your intention;
- check in the rear vision mirrors;
- move to the left;
- and when turning left give way to all traffic coming across an intersection in front of you.

When you stop or slow down, you must also signal your intention. This is done by means of a stop light which comes on when you put your foot on the brakes.

2. MOVING OFF(23): When driving away from where you are parked (drawing out from a kerb) you must:

- look both ways for traffic;
- clearly signal your intention.

When coming out of a private driveway or an offstreet parking area, you must give way to pedestrians and all traffic on the public street.

3. DRIVING

(i) Positioning

- If lanes are not marked drive near the left-hand side of the road.

- If you wish to turn right, you should carefully move your car close to the centre line well before the point where you want to turn. Other drivers going straight ahead can then go past you on the left-hand side.

- A simple rule to follow is that if you wish to go straight ahead, follow the centre lane, if you want to go left, stay in the left-hand lane. If you want to go right, get in the right-hand lane. Choose your lane well ahead of the intersection.

- Drive completely within one lane, do NOT straddle the line.

(ii) Speed limits(24) In built-up areas, for example in a city or town, vehicles may not go faster than 60 km/h except where signs say otherwise(25). In other places signs say how fast you are allowed to go. (Trucks have lower speed limits depending on their size and weight.)

Speed signs tell you the fastest speed you may go, but an intelligent driver always watches the following things carefully and lowers his speed:

- when traffic is heavy;
- on roads with poor surfaces;
- when it is raining;
- when there are pedestrians or cyclists;
- at night.

Never drive faster than is safe for the conditions.

(iii) Tailgating This means that you drive too close to the back of another vehicle. It is illegal(26) and dangerous because if the car in front stops suddenly you will not be able to stop in time and will run into it.

(iv) Stopping distance You should allow one car space between you and the car in front of you for every 15 km/h of your speed.

- If your car and brakes are in good condition;
- if you are watching carefully;
- if the weather is fine and the road dry;

it would *still* take you 34 m to stop if you were travelling at 60 km/h and saw a child on the road in front of you.

4. INTERSECTIONS: Always approach an intersection very carefully and be ready to stop. Only go forward when you are sure it is safe and you will not block the road because the traffic has stopped on the other side.

(i) Giving way When two cars are driving towards an uncontrolled intersection from different directions, if there is *any* chance of a collision (crash), you must always let the car on your right go first.

You are required to give way to:

- all vehicles on your right at uncontrolled intersections;
- all vehicles, if you face(27) a GIVE WAY or STOP sign;
- all traffic, when you leave a car park or private drive-way;
- all traffic going past you, before you pull out from the kerb;
- pedestrians crossing the road at intersections;
- pedestrians at traffic lights, when you are turning left or right;
- all traffic, before you do a U-turn(28) or a three-point turn;

- emergency vehicles (i.e. police cars and police motorcycles, ambulances, fire brigades and rescue vehicles) when you hear their siren (i.e. the loud, shrill noise they make to let other drivers know they are in a hurry);
- pedestrians on pedestrian crossings;
- in some States, children on any part of a school crossing;
- oncoming traffic, when turning right.

You must also give way when *merging*. Merging occurs when traffic from two lanes has to move into one lane. Drivers should take turns, one from each lane.

(ii) Right-hand turns Follow the rules of the section under DRIVER SIGNALS. On a dual carriageway(29) you should turn right from the right-hand lane.

(iii) Left-hand turns When you turn left you must:

- obey the traffic lights, if there is a left-hand arrow;
- give way to all pedestrians and all cars before you move forward where there is a TURN LEFT AT ANY TIME WITH CARE sign.

(iv) U-turn A U-turn is shaped like a U. It means that you turn around and go back the way you were coming. When you make a U-turn you should:

- wait until the road is clear;
- put on your 'right turn' signal;
- give way to all cars.

You should not make a U-turn:

- over an unbroken(30) yellow line;
- on or near the crest(31) of a hill;
- at a bend;
- at traffic lights;
- over a median strip(32);
- close to an intersection.

(v) Dual carriageway intersections Cars travelling on a dual carriageway must obey the normal traffic rules, signs and lights, as if it were an ordinary street.

(vi) Roundabouts When you drive on a roundabout(33):

- be ready to merge with the traffic already on the roundabout;
- signal clearly which direction you want to take;
- if there are lanes marked, choose the correct lane and stay in it.
- when entering a roundabout, give way to all vehicles already on it.

(vii) Railway crossings: When approaching (getting closer to) a railway crossing, you should:

- slow down and approach very carefully;
- change into a lower gear;
- stop well clear of the crossing if there is a stop sign;
- not cross if bells are ringing or lights are flashing;
- make sure before you start to cross that you can go all the way across and will not be held up by other traffic. It is an offence to cross when a train is less than 400 m away;
- be very careful of double tracks. There may be trains coming in both directions, with the train on the line nearest you hiding the other train from you.

5. TRAFFIC LANES: On a dual carriageway:

- stay in one lane unless you want to change lanes, to turn, or overtake. When you move out of your lane the responsibility for safety is yours. When you want to turn, you should do so from the lane closest to the side of the road you are turning into;
- unless you are about to turn right stay in the left-hand lane if you are driving at a lower speed than the other traffic.

6. OVERTAKING: Overtake only when you can see well ahead and can pass safely, i.e. when the road is clear. Never overtake:

- when approaching the crest of a hill;
- near a school or pedestrian crossing;
- where there are double unbroken lines or an unbroken line on your side of the centre line;
- at an intersection;
- if there is not enough room or you are not sure of what is ahead.

When overtaking:

- carefully watch the speed of the car in front and of cars coming towards you;
- look in your rear vision mirror to make sure the car behind is not overtaking you;
- put on your 'right turn' signal;
- move smoothly out from behind the car you are overtaking. Stay far enough back so that you have a good view;
- put your 'left turn' indicator on when you move back into the lane of traffic;
- don't cut back too soon in(34) front of the car you have passed;
- if there is only a small space between cars don't overtake to go into that space. It is dangerous and annoying.

If another car is passing you:

- keep to the left;
- do not increase your speed until the car passing you is a fair way in front.

7. FREEWAY DRIVING: Freeways are dual carriageways with no crossing traffic. Traffic moves quickly and because of this the following may not use freeways:

- pedestrians
- bicycles
- animals
- horse-drawn vehicles(35)
- vehicles with long and wide loads(36)

Rules for freeways are:

- do not stop on the roadway. If you must stop because of breakdown or emergency, use only the emergency lane provided. Do not enter this lane unless you have to stop;
- do not make U-turns;
- do not reverse;
- signal before changing lanes and allow more space to do this, because all the cars are travelling faster;
- be ready and in the correct lane when you approach your exit. If you miss it, you must not turn back. Go on to the next one;
- slow vehicles keep left;
- when you wish to overtake a car obey all the rules of overtaking very carefully.

(i) Entering a freeway

- If you see a sign saying GO BACK. YOU ARE GOING THE WRONG WAY it means you are entering a freeway on an exit. GO BACK AT ONCE;
- give way to all traffic on the freeway;
- when you see a suitably-sized gap in the lane closest to you, use the feed-in lane(37) to accelerate so you can enter the gap at the same speed as cars on the freeway.

(ii) Leaving a freeway

- you leave through an exit lane. Slow down and be ready for different traffic conditions.

8. NIGHT DRIVING: Drive more slowly when you are driving at night. If your headlights only let you see 60 m in front, drive slowly enough to stop within 60 m, in case you need to stop suddenly for an animal or a pedestrian, or for some other reason.

When driving at night:

- you must have your headlights on. This is compulsory between sunset and sunrise but other drivers can see you better if you have them on at dusk as well (i.e. while the daylight is fading,

just before the sun sets). You should also put your headlights on, or at least your parking lights, when it is difficult for other drivers to see you, i.e. when it is foggy, misty or raining heavily;

- you must dip your headlights (i.e. change them from high beam to low beam) as early as possible when you see another car coming towards you, and at least before it is 200 m away. It is very dangerous to let your headlights on high beam shine into another driver's eyes;
- when you are following another car you should also dip your headlights so that they don't shine in his rear vision mirror;
- do not look into the lights of a car coming towards you. If you are dazzled (i.e. you can't see because of the brightness) slow down or stop, keeping well to the left.

9. WINTER AND WET WEATHER DRIVING: Make sure your vehicle is in good condition for driving in winter and wet weather.

- Check particularly the tyres, windscreen wipers and demisters, radiator and battery;
- anti-freeze in the radiator is necessary in those parts of Australia where frosts occur;
- keep the windscreen and windows clear;
- drive more slowly because roads are slippery(38) in winter. Try your brakes carefully to see how the roads feel. Do not put your brakes on hard or quickly, or you may skid.

(i) *Wet roads* It takes longer to stop when roads are wet because your tyres cannot grip the road as well. Leave about twice as much room between you and the car in front because it can take much longer to stop in wet weather.

When it rains, a thin sheet of water forms on the road and builds up under your tyres. Even good tyres have trouble gripping the road and sometimes just slide on the road. This is called 'aquaplaning' and when it happens, you cannot steer the car or stop it. It is more likely to happen if you are going fast, so slow down! Bald tyres are particularly dangerous on wet roads.

(ii) Surface water and flooding If the roadway ahead is flooded (i.e.covered with water) stop and see how deep it is. There are usually depth measuring poles along roads which are often flooded. If the water is over 50 cm deep, or if it is flowing quickly, or if there is much debris (bits of wood etc.) in it, do not drive through it. If you cannot tell how deep the water is, go another way. When you do drive through water, remember the following:

- drive in first gear, as slowly as you can, but keep the engine speed (revs) high;
- after driving through water, always check your brakes. Drum brakes that are wet will not work. Put them on several times gently to help them dry out;
- if the water is deep, remove the fan belt, to avoid splashing water on to the distributor.

10. REVERSING: When reversing, you must take a great deal of care. The responsibility for safety is yours. Make sure there are no pedestrians, young children or obstacles behind you. Ask someone to guide you, if you cannot see clearly behind you.

11. PARKING: You should always park in line with the left-hand kerb, close to the kerb, with your car pointed in the direction you have been travelling, unless a sign says you can do otherwise.
Where a sign tells you to 'angle' park (i.e. at an angle to the kerb) there are usually lines drawn on the road to show you how to park.

We have parking rules so that people and cars can move about safely and so that so far as possible everyone can find a parking place when they need one.

You must not stop or park your vehicle:

- on a clearway during the times shown on signs;
- beside any kerb painted red;
- beside another car already parked (double parking);
- closer than 1 m to any car in front or behind you;

- across any road, path or driveway;
- on, or closer than 6 m to, a bridge or pedestrian crossing;
- on a children's crossing, or within 15 m of a children's crossing;
- on median strips, on land between two carriageways of a dual carriageway, or on a plantation area next to a road;
- on a taxi rank or bus stop;
- in a loading zone, unless you are using a special vehicle, or unless your car has a certificate from the Motor Registry;
- so that any part of your car hangs over lines on the ground which mark out your parking place;
- in any place where you could be a nuisance or cause danger to others.

(i) *Parking meters, voucher parking and boom gate parking*

Parking meters on the edge of the kerb allow you to park there for a limited time. You have to:

- park your car beside the meter within the lines on the road;
- put the correct coins in the meter.

Voucher dispenser parking To use them you should:

- park your car within the lines;
- put money into a voucher dispenser and wait for the voucher to come out. Usually you can only park for up to two hours, but always read the information on the dispenser;
- leave your tickets inside the car where a parking inspector can see them.

Boom gate parking Where there is a boom gate (a piece of wood or metal which stretches across a drive way and rises to let you pass), you should:

- drive up to the gate and take a ticket from the box beside it. As you do this the gate will go up;
- drive in and park your car;
- drive your car to an exit when you wish to leave, and give the ticket to an attendant who will tell you how much you should pay.

(ii) Owner responsible If your car is parked in the wrong place, a parking inspector may place a parking infringement notice (i.e. a notice to pay a fine) on your car windscreen. The notice will tell you how to pay the fine. If someone else was driving the car you must tell the Motor Registry that person's name, otherwise you will have to pay the fine yourself.

(iii) Parking at night If you park your car in the street at night it is best to have it under a street light so that it can be seen from 200 m away. It is dangerous to leave a car on a country road at night.

12. BREAKDOWNS AND ACCIDENTS:

(i) After a breakdown, get your car off the road if you can. Never forget the danger from passing traffic. If you are working on the car do not stand in front of the tail lights. Make sure other cars can see them.

If you see vehicles ahead moving slowly, or flashing lights of police and ambulance vehicles, slow down and be ready to stop. If you hear the siren of an emergency vehicle you should move over to the left-hand side of the road and let them go past you.

(ii) If you are in an accident where a person or animal is injured (hurt), or where anyone's property (i.e. a car, a house, a fence etc.) is damaged, you should:

- stop your vehicle;
- give: i) your name and address,
  ii) the name and address of the owner of the vehicle,
  iii) the registered number of the vehicle,

  to:
  i) a policeman,
  ii) any injured person,
  iii) any witness helping an injured person,

iv) any person whose property has been damaged.

- If there is no policeman at the accident you may have to report the accident as soon as possible, or within 24 hours, to a member of the Police Force.
  When someone is hurt, you must report the accident. Where only property damage has been done, the reporting criteria differ from State to State.

(iii) Towing. If you are towing another vehicle or being towed:

- the tow-rope should not be longer than 3.5 m, but it shouldn't be too short either;
- a white cloth must be tied on the tow-rope and at night a light (e.g. headlight) must shine on the cloth;
- a good driver must steer the towed vehicle;
- the vehicle being towed must not be heavier than the vehicle towing it;
- when you tow a trailer or caravan, use a safety chain;
- no one is allowed to ride in a caravan while it is being towed;
- You should fit a load equaliser when towing a caravan.

13. ANIMALS:

- Do not let an animal out by itself. When you take it for a walk, make sure it has a lead on.
- Make sure an animal inside your car cannot disturb you while you are driving.
- If you are riding a horse, stay on the left-hand side of the road.
- If you are walking and leading an animal on a road that has no footpath, walk on the right-hand side of the road so that you can see the traffic coming towards you.
- Drive slowly past animals on the road. Do not sound your horn or rev your engine.

14. OTHER SAFETY SUGGESTIONS FOR MOTORISTS:

(i) Car care A small amount of money spent on your car could save your life. You should often check the following items yourself:

- *brakes* Do they stop your car smoothly and evenly. Your car should not swerve to one side when you put them on. Your handbrake should stop the car rolling, even on a hill.
- *headlights* Is one light as bright as the other? Do they shine in the same direction? Are your parking lights bright and clear?
- *tail and stop lights* Do the red tail lights come on when you turn your parking lights or headlights on? Do the stop lights (brake lights) come on when you put the brakes on? Often check that your turning signals are working properly. You will probably find it more convenient to get someone to help you make these checks.
- *reflectors* They must not be broken or covered by dirt or faded. If your tail lights fail, reflectors may save your life.
- *tyres* Smooth tyres can cause a skid particularly on wet roads. Tyres should be replaced when their grooves (i.e. the tread) are less than 1.50 mm deep. New tyres have tread depth indicators which show when the tyres need replacing.
- *windscreen wipers* Do they clean the window well? If your windscreen or windows are cracked, scratched or dirty it will be difficult to see through them, especially at sunset, sunrise or when other headlights are shining toward you.
- *wheels* Are they properly aligned (i.e. straightened)? If they are not, your tyres will wear unevenly and your car may want to go to one side of the road.
- *horn* Does it work well?
- *rear view mirror* It should be properly positioned. An outside rear view mirror on the driver's side is also helpful.

- *driving position* Is your driving seat in a fixed position and can you reach everything you need when driving without stretching?
- *spare wheel* Don't forget to check the air pressure in your spare tyre from time to time.

(ii) Car thefts Always lock your car, even if you are going away only for a little while. Never leave your keys in the ignition switch, even in your driveway at home. Never leave valuable things like radios, cameras or purses in the car where anyone can see them. If your car is stolen, tell the police immediately.

(iii) Tiredness If you feel sleepy you are dangerous to yourself and other people on the road. Stop the car and have a walk or a short sleep. Keep a window open. On a long trip rest often and stop overnight if it is possible.

(iv) Skids Skids happen when the tyres cannot grip the road because you are slowing down too quickly, speeding up too quickly, or going round a corner too fast. Three things may make you skid:

- the condition of the road - if it is icy, wet or covered with gravel or dirt;
- the condition of the brakes, the tyres and the steering;
- the way you drive.

Also remember:

- if you will be driving over snow or on icy roads, take wheel chains with you;
- in cold weather there might be ice patches on parts of the road which are in the shade.

SECTION D

SEAT BELTS

Wearing seat belts is the single most important thing you can do to lessen the chances that you will be hurt in an accident.

A seat belt will stop you hitting the dashboard or windscreen or being thrown out of the car if you have an accident. It will also spread the force of the crash across strong areas of your body. To work well, your seat belt must fit closely and should not be twisted.

Young children suffer very bad injuries if they are not in the correct sort of seat. It is even more dangerous for a mother to hold a child on her lap. Babies should be in a bassinet which has webbing across the top and is held in place by seat belts. Small children should use a special child restraint, either a child seat or child harness, which conforms to Australian Standard 1754.

If the correct restraint for a child is not available, a correctly adjusted seat belt is better than nothing. It is safer to be in the back seat rather than in the front seat. Approved booster cushions now exist to help increase the suitability of adult seat belts for use by children.

If your car is damaged in an accident, replace your seat belts because they may be stretched or weakened.

SECTION E

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

It is best not to drive your car if you have had any alcohol to drink. If you drink only three or four small glasses of beer or wine you will begin to make mistakes when driving. You will:

- not see as well;
- take longer to correct mistakes;

- be going faster than you think you are;
- think you are driving much better than you are.

There are special punishments for people who drive when they have had too much to drink. If a policeman wants to give you a breath test you must let him. If you have too much alcohol in your breath, you will lose your licence and have to pay a fine. You are not allowed to drink while driving a car.

If you have an accident after you have been drinking your insurance company may not pay any of the bills.

Many medicines a doctor or chemist gives you will affect your driving, particularly if you drink alcohol as well. You should always ask the doctor or chemist whether any medicine you are given will affect your driving.

SECTION F

LINES AND SIGNS

1. ROAD MARKINGS: Yellow or white lines on the road mean different things which you must understand and take note of.

(i) Single broken centre line

You should drive on the left-hand side of the line, but when the roadway ahead is clear, you may cross it to overtake another car.

(ii) Single or double (two together) centre lines - unbroken

Do not cross double unbroken lines or a single unbroken line.
Do not park at the side of the road.

(iii) Double centre lines - one broken and one unbroken.

Do not cross double centre lines where the unbroken line is nearer to you. To overtake a car, you are allowed to cross a double centre line made up of broken and unbroken centre lines if the broken line is on your side of the road and the road ahead is clear.

(iv) Diagonal bars, painted islands

Do not drive into the marked spaces.

2. **TRAFFIC SIGNS:** There are four types of road traffic signs:

(a) regulatory - you *must* obey them.
(b) warning - they tell you of a possible danger.
(c) guide - they give you information.
(d) roadworks and special purposes - they tell you about special dangers because of road work or other short-term problems.

Here is an explanation of the four types of signs.

(a) Regulatory signs

As you get near an intersection with a STOP sign facing you, you must stop at the stop line and give way to all cars before moving.

As you get near an intersection with a GIVE WAY sign facing you, you must give way to all other vehicles, i.e. let all other vehicles go first.

Other signs tell you what the speed limit is.

CROSSING signs warn you of a pedestrian crossing. You must give way to pedestrians at crossings. Special signs are put up when children are likely to be using school crossings. You must not pass a vehicle which has stopped to let people cross.

When there is an arrow sign, you may drive your car only in the direction of the arrow.

You must keep on the left-hand side of a sign that says KEEP LEFT.

The meaning of many other signs is quite clear. You must do as they say. Make sure you know what the instructions on them mean.

(b) Warning signs

When you see one of these signs you must take more care because something which might be dangerous is ahead. Most of these signs are in black paint on a yellow diamond-shaped sign.

(c) Guide signs

These signs help you to get where you want to go. They tell you in which direction and how far away places are.

(d) Roadwork and special purpose signs

These tell you of a danger which should last only a short time. Make sure you know what such words as AHEAD, DETOUR, TRAFFIC HAZARD, ROAD PLANT etc. mean.

3. TRAFFIC LIGHT SIGNALS:

(i) Single light signal

- A *red light* means wait at the stop line on the road near the lights.

- An *amber* (orange) *light* means that the red light is about to come on and that you must stop at the stop line. In some States an amber light also comes on before the green light.

(ii) Double light signals

- a *green light* with a *green arrow* means that you may proceed.

- A *red arrow* means that you cannot go in the direction of the arrow, even if the round light is green.

- An *amber arrow* means that if you are approaching the intersection and want to turn in the direction of the arrow, you must stop.

If the round light is green and you want to go straight ahead, you may do so. The arrow signals may be on at the same time as any of the round signals. If you want to go in the direction of the arrow you must obey the arrow signals. Where there is only a round signal you must obey that.

SECTION G

REGISTRATION AND LICENSING

1. WHAT IS A DRIVING LICENCE? A licence is a document (piece of paper) given to you by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles after you have passed the driving tests - answering questions and driving a car.

The licence will also mention any special conditions such as whether or not you should wear glasses when you drive and what types of vehicles you are allowed to drive.

2. HOW TO GET A LICENCE:

(i) Learning to drive

If you are old enough - the minimum age varies from State to State - you can ask for a permit to learn to drive a car or ride a motorcycle. The permit lasts for a few months only and you can get another one if it runs out. All people who ask for a permit must:

- prove their age;
- have a test to see how well they can see;
- pass a test, in writing, on road rules, signs and markings. This written test is not given in all States.

When you have a permit and are learning to drive, you must have 'L' (for Learner) plates at the front and back of your car or motorcycle. When you are learning to drive a car you must have another person who already has a licence, sitting in the front seat beside you.

(ii) Driving test appointments

You can arrange a time for a driving test by going to your local Motor Registry or licence testing station. Find out the address by looking up the telephone directory.

(iii) The driving test

When you go to have your driving test you should:

- have a vehicle which runs well, is clean, and has seat belts in both front seats or, preferably, all seats;
- get there at least ten minutes before your test;
- remember that the person giving you the test is mainly trying to find out whether or not it is safe to let you drive on the road by yourself. You do not have to be an excellent driver but you must drive safely, be polite to other drivers and obey all the traffic signs, such as STOP and GIVE WAY signs. The person giving you the test will ask you to do certain things such as park the car, turn around etc., but he mainly wants to see that you remember and follow the rules of the road when you are driving.

People who have a licence from another country usually do not have to do a driving test, but they must have an eyesight test and answer questions about the road rules.

3. VEHICLE REGISTRATION: Any vehicle that you wish to drive on public roads must be safe and it must have third party insurance cover. This insurance fee is paid when you register your car and means that if you injure another person (the 'third party') while you are driving, their medical expenses will be paid. If you want other insurance to pay for damage to your own or someone else's car or property, you must arrange this for yourself with an insurance company.

When your vehicle is registered you will be given:

- a certificate of registration;
- a windscreen label (a sticker to stick on the inside of your windscreen);
- a set of number plates to put on your car.

If you buy a second-hand(39) vehicle which is already registered you must have the registration put into your name within one week. If you sell a registered car you must notify the Motor Registry within one week, and tell them the name and address of the person who has bought your vehicle.

In some States and Territories vehicles must be mechanically inspected when registered, in others when re-registered, and in some States and Territories a vehicle must be mechanically inspected before it can be sold.

4. VEHICLE MAINTENANCE: When you register your car, the registration lasts for one year. During that year you must keep your car in good condition. If you cannot do it yourself, take it to a garage. This will help stop:

- accidents which happen because something doesn't work;
- breakdowns in dangerous places or at very difficult times for you;
- small problems becoming big problems which will cost more to repair.

5. AUSTRALIAN DESIGN RULES: Since 1970 all companies which build cars in Australia have had to obey certain rules. They then attach a 'compliance plate' to the car under the bonnet to show they have done this. If you buy a car built after January 1970 and it does not have the 'compliance plate' attached to it, it may be difficult for you to register it.

If you want to bring a car with you when you return from overseas, you should speak to someone at the Motor Registry before you go away, to find out what you must do.

SECTION H

SOME QUESTIONS

To test your understanding of the road safety rules, we have added some questions which have been given to people as part of their driving test. Model answers follow.

Q. When do you have to give way?

A.
- when traffic is approaching on the right at an uncontrolled intersection;
- when approaching a GIVE WAY sign;
- to oncoming traffic when turning right;
- when leaving the kerb after having been parked;
- when making a U-turn or a three-point turn;
- to emergency vehicles sounding their sirens;
- to avoid a collision;
- to pedestrians on a pedestrian or school crossing;
- when leaving parking areas or when coming out of a driveway;

Q. What do you do when you come to a GIVE WAY sign?

A. The sign means exactly what it says. You must give way to traffic approaching either from left or right by slowing or stopping if necessary.

Q. What do you do when you come to a STOP sign?

A. Every vehicle approaching a STOP sign must stop before reaching the white stopping line marked on the roadway. Having stopped, the driver shall give way to all traffic approaching from either left or right and not drive his vehicle further until he is certain that it is safe to do so.

Q. What is the meaning of the sign, TURN LEFT AT ANY TIME WITH CARE?

A. This sign is used at intersections that are controlled by traffic signals and in which a left-hand turn lane is provided. It allows left-turning traffic to move provided that they give way to other vehicles and pedestrians.

Q. How do you make a right-hand turn?

A.
i) signal your intention at least 30 m before the turn. Check rear-vision mirror;
ii) position your vehicle on the left of the centreline marking of the carriageway;
iii) slow down and check for oncoming traffic;
iv) give way to oncoming traffic and traffic on the right. In Victoria, oncoming traffic that is turning left will give way to you;
v) check rear-vision mirror;
vi) turn right carefully when it is safe to do so.

Q. What must you do when coming to a pedestrian crossing?

A. Slow down and watch out for pedestrians. If a pedestrian is on the crossing, the vehicle should be stopped until the pedestrian is clear. It is an offence to overtake a vehicle at a pedestrian crossing. In some States you must not cross a school crossing while a pedestrian is on it.

Q. When is overtaking not permitted (i.e. not allowed)?

A.
- on a crest;
- on a blind bend (i.e. a corner or turn of the road you cannot see round);
- over double lines;
- over an unbroken line on the driver's side of the road;
- on a school crossing;
- on a pedestrian crossing;
- where there is not enough space and it would be unsafe to do so.

Q. When should you switch on your lights?

A. Between the hours of sunset and sunrise. Also when visibility is affected by weather conditions (e.g. when mist, fog, rain etc. make it hard to see).

Q. When should you dip your headlights?

A. As soon as possible but at least 200 m from a vehicle approaching from the opposite direction; also when following another vehicle. You should drive with your lights on low beam when driving on a road lit by street lights.

Q. What do you do after an accident?

A. If you are in an accident causing injury to any person or animal, or damage to any property, you should:

- stop your vehicle;
- give your name and address, the name and address of the owner of the vehicle and its registered number to any policeman, or to any injured person, or to any witness taking care of an injured person, or to the person whose property has been damaged;
- if there is no policeman at the accident, you may have to report the accident as soon as possible to the Police Station;
- if, after an accident, your car is holding up traffic (i.e. stopping other vehicles moving freely), move it to the side of the roadway.

Q. Can you name the places where you cannot park a motor vehicle?

A.
- alongside a kerb painted red;
- next to another car parked alongside the kerb (double parking);
- at a bus stop/taxi rank;
- any place where signs state NO PARKING or NO STOPPING;
- loading zones (unless you are driving a goods vehicle);
- upon or near a school crossing;
- upon or near a bridge;
- upon or near a pedestrian crossing;

- closer than 1 m to the front or rear of a vehicle parked at the kerbside;
- anywhere where the vehicle could cause danger to any other vehicle;
- within an intersection or junction of two or more streets;
- across a driveway;
- on the strip in the middle of a dual carriageway.

Q. What is the meaning of double or single unbroken lines marked along the middle of the road?

A. A driver must not cross either at any time.

SECTION I

SUGGESTED EXPLANATIONS FOR CERTAIN EXPRESSIONS USED

1 oncoming = coming towards us

2 'Traffic' refers to all vehicles
'Vehicles' includes cars, buses, trucks, vans, bicycles, motorcycles, and carts pulled by horses

3 where two or more roads cross (or intersect), or meet

4 give way to = must allow the other to go first

5 reverse = go backwards

6 slow down = drive with less speed, drive more slowly

7 overtake = get in front of, go past

8 look out for = watch for

9 register, be registered; registered number = number on number plates

10 (bi)cycle, (bi)cyclist; motorcycle, motorcyclist; motor car, motorist. Check understanding of these expressions

11 rules of the road, traffic rules, road rules

12 handlebars = the steering top of a bicycle

13 left-hand (side), right-hand (side)

14 to tow = to pull behind one

15 abreast = in line and facing the same way

16 lightweight, heavyweight (cars and people)

17 compulsory = must be done

18 approved = officially thought good e.g. approved helmet = a safe helmet

19 pillion passenger = the second person on a motorbike, riding behind the driver

20 to be astride = to have one leg on each side of something

21 signal your intention = to let other people know what you want to do. A formal phrase, but students should know it

22 centre, or middle of the road; centre line or line in the middle of the road
median strip = the concrete or grass section in the middle of the road

23 move off = to make your vehicle start moving from a stationary (still) position

24 speed limit signs usually show the highest (maximum) speed you may drive at. You are not allowed to drive any faster i.e. you are not allowed to *exceed* the speed limit
maximum = highest, minimum = lowest

25 to say otherwise = to say something different, to disagree with whatever was said

26 legal = according to the law, allowed by law. Illegal = not allowed by the law. An illegal act is an offence

27 if you face.... = if it is in front of you .... . If a GIVE WAY sign is facing you, you must obey it, and give way to all traffic in all directions

28 U-turn = to turn in the shape of a U, to turn around and go back in the direction you came from. To make a three-point turn = to turn around and go back the way you came, stopping in the middle of the turn to reverse a little way because the space to turn in is not big enough to go straight round

29 a dual carriageway has a division in the middle to separate the two streams of traffic going in opposite directions

30 Unbroken = not broken = continuous

31 crest = the top of a hill

32 the section of grass or other vegetation that divides the traffic travelling in different directions on a dual carriageway

33 roundabout = a circle of roadway from which there are several exit roads

34 cut in, cut back in = move back into the stream of traffic.
Do not do this too soon; it is rude and dangerous

35 horse-drawn vehicle = any sort of cart which is pulled by a horse

36 *long and wide load.* Trucks sometimes show this sign and it means what they are carrying is longer and wider than most loads. Be careful when you want to pass a truck with this sign as it might take more time than you think to get around it

37 feed-in lane = the lane where you wait for a break in the traffic and speed up so you can enter the stream of traffic at the speed it is going at

38 slippery. It is easy to slide on a slippery surface. An icy road (a road with a thin covering of ice on it) will be slippery

39 second-hand car = a used car; not a new one

PART II

SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHING

Some of the examples in the following do not refer to driving or road safety at all. They are intended merely to hint at possible extensions of the specialised application of an expression into, or from, more general language practice. The notes make no claim to being a comprehensive compendium either of teaching possibilities or of difficulties that learners may encounter. They will no doubt be used selectively, or added to, by individual teachers in the light of the special needs of a given class.

1. General expressions that will be useful for understanding of the text: letters in brackets refer to sections of the text.

you must
you may
at all times
leaving the kerb
blind (A)
crippled (A)
footrests (B)
mind readers (C)
move out smoothly (C)

traffic conditions (C)
bald tyres (C)
parking meters (C)
boomgate parking (C)
witness (C)
tow/be towed (C)
load equaliser (C)
affect your driving (D)
mechanically inspected (G)

sounding their sirens
save your life (stop you from dying)
cycle path (B)
you have little protection (B)
for reasons of economy (B)
in emergency stops (B)
offstreet parking area (C)
built-up areas (C)
uncontrolled intersections (C)

the responsibility for safety is yours (C)
dual carriageway (C)
be a nuisance (C)
voucher dispenser parking (C)
injured/hurt vs damaged (C)
the reporting criteria (C)
sound your horn (C)
rev your engine (C)
expenses will be paid (G)

NOTE: a blind person/a blind corner/a bald person/a bald tyre

2. Language that could be the subject of extension, and other expressions than the above that may need explaining:

(a) Demonstrate meaning of 'clear' in 'the road ahead is clear' by using toy cars.

(b) Practise compound sentences with 'want to' and 'must' -

When you want to (X), you must (Y)
(....drive a car, get a licence)
(....bake a cake, turn the oven on)

(c) For recognition, the question, 'On whom (where) does the onus for safety rest?'

(d) 'Under what circumstances' = 'when'

(When may I make a diamond turn ?...overtake ?)
(... must I give way ?...change lanes ?)

Substitute 'under what circumstances' for 'when' in such sentences as those above.

(e) Teach meaning of 'unless' -

I'll be cold unless I wear a coat
= if I don't wear a coat

I will be late unless I hurry, hungry unless I eat etc.

(f) 'rear vision mirror' - let students look over a real car and point out parts such as:

rear vision mirror, windscreen, windscreen wipers, blinkers, brake lights, dashboard, steering wheel etc.

(g) 'give way' - demonstrate this with toy cars on drawn intersections.

(h) Take students out in a car and let them see what is meant by:

car parks, private driveways, pedestrian crossings, GIVE WAY signs, STOP signs etc.

(i) Ensure that the meaning of 'do' is known:

What do you do when faced with a GIVE WAY sign ?

(j) The word 'obscure' will be useful: = 'hide', 'conceal'

The child is obscuring the TV
... truck ... the traffic lights etc.
You are obscuring my vision (I can't see when you sit there)

(k) Demonstrate the meaning of 'at right angles to'

Put the pen at right angles to the book.
That wall is at right angles to the floor.

(l) The different uses of 'do' and 'make'. Frequently the two expressions are interchangeable ('do/make a U-turn' etc.) but students need to know when they are not.

(m) 'damaged'/'injured' ('hurt') - teach possible dialogue:

A: I had a car accident on Saturday.
B: Oh dear. Was anyone hurt?
A: No, thank goodness.
B: Was your car damaged?
A: No, but the other one was. Badly.
B: Not a write-off, I hope?
A: No. Nothing a good panel-beater can't fix.

(n) Teach vocabulary associated with driving, such as:

steer, accelerate, reduce speed, slow down, pull over (to the side)

(o) The concept of 'care' and appropriate word-building exercises associated with the concept will be useful:

Examples: Take care. Take care of your yourself. He's very careful on the roads. He's careless. He drives carefully/carelessly
Word-building : car, care, careless, carless!

(p) 'alert' = 'awake,' 'careful' - not sleepy, dreamy, absent-minded. Demonstration by mime may be useful.

(q) 'cause' - Hot water can cause scalding.
A cigarette can cause a bushfire.
A car accident can cause a death.

(noun) He'll be the cause of someone's death if he drives like that.

3. Language, beyond that listed under 'Suggested Explanations', which relates to particular sections of the text.

SECTION A (Pedestrians) The verb 'cross' as in
I'm crossing the road (the room, this line)

SECTION C (Motorists) (a) The difference between 'line' and 'lane'. Meanings of 'broken'/'unbroken' and 'centre,' 'single/double'.

(b) Meanings of 'overtake' may be demonstrated with toy cars and roadways made of paper strips. Also, meanings of 'the road ahead is clear' and 'I'm changing lanes,' 'changing to the centre (left/right) lane' etc.

(c) Teach 'straddle' by straddling a chair or a wall. With models, 'That car is straddling the line.'

(d) Again with models, teach 'turn right' and 'make a right(-hand) turn,' 'turn left' etc.

(e) Establish the meaning of the expression 'signal your intention' in terms appropriate to your State's practice.

(f) Teach: I must (X) before (after, while) (Y)ing.
(You must beat the egg before adding it.)
(.....signal... intention before leaving the kerb).
(He must address the envelope before posting the letter etc.)

Similarly:
Before (Y)ing you must (X)
After .... (in this order).

Extensions possible -
One day before going home, I must tidy the shelves.
Two hours after eating, I must take a tablet.
Thirty metres before turning, I must ....

(g) Establish the meaning of 'face' -
'I'm facing you/You're facing me/I'm facing a 'GIVE WAY' sign.

(h) Allow X for every Y:
Allow one car space for every 15 km/h of your speed.
chair person.
two cups of coffee guest etc.

SECTION D (Seat Belts) In the context of talking about seat belts, and by extension in other contexts, the meanings of the following should be understood:

firm	tight	buckle	twisted
held	bassinet	attached	loose

SECTION F (Lines and Signs) Practice with pictures of road signs might be used as a basis for oral expression. 'What does this sign mean?' or 'What do you do when you see this sign ?' are questions the teacher might ask students, or have students ask one another. A variation might be 'Where do you think you would find a sign like this ?... Why ? ... What does it tell you to do ?'

SECTION G (Registration and Licensing) (a) Terms such as 'valid' (it is valid for 3 months) and 'produce' (show, let...see...) will perhaps be useful for learners to understand. This more formal level of language does have a place. Students might be asked to 'produce' their homework, a comb, their wallet, their books. Practise in such contexts as:

> I can't produce my homework just now. I can give (show) it to you tomorrow.
>
> I can't produce my licence at the moment, but I can bring it to the police station tomorrow.

(b) With the procedures involved in registering or re-registering a vehicle, some account of what happens will be useful. At least, the terms 'registered'/ 'unregistered', 'registration' and 'renewing (renewal of) registration' need to be understood.

(c) 'check' -

You should check your radiator level, oil etc.

and: The Motor Registry will check your car.

The meaning may become clear from paraphrasing by the teacher or by students:

> 'Look for mistakes/damage/good things/bad things' as in 'I check your homework/what you have written' etc.

SECTION H (Some Questions)

The more formal expression 'What is the procedure for (X)ing ?' should be shown to mean simply, 'How do you X?' involving not just the operation of driving, of course, but any signals etc. that are required. This lends itself to extension into more general language, even if students acquire it only for recognition:

What is the procedure for
- leaving the kerb ?
- changing lanes ?
- making a diamond turn ?
- joining the library ?
- getting a loan?